

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on June 15, 2006. Claims 1, 8 and 11 have been amended, claims 5, 12, 13, 17 and 23-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 28 and 29 have been added. Claims 1, 2-4, 6-11, 14-16 and 18-29 remain pending in the present application. Applicant notes and appreciates Examiner's allowance of claims 18-22 and the indication of allowability of claims 5, 12, 13 and 17. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Burgin, U.S. Patent No. 4,156,424. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burgin in view of Brantigan, U.S. Patent No. 5,425,772. Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burgin in view of Baynham et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,224,599. Lastly, claims 2, 7, 8 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burgin. While Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, Applicant has rewritten allowable dependent claims 5, 12, 13 and 17 in independent form to accelerate prosecution of the present application to allowance and without prejudice to Applicant seeking broader claims in a continuation application.

In particular, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 5. Independent claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 12. Claim 11 has further been amended to recite that the bridge member supports the first and second paddles in spaced relationship. Allowable dependent claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form as new independent claim 28, including the further amendment made to claim 11 as discussed above. Lastly, allowable dependent claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form as new independent claim 29, including the further amendment made to independent claim 11 as discussed above. Dependent claim 8 has been amended to correct clear typographical errors.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1 and 11 and new independent claims 28 and 29 are allowable over the prior art of record and Examiner's allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Moreover, as claims 2-4, 6-10, 14-16, 19, 20 and 22 depend from allowable independent claims 1, 11, 18 and 21, and further as each of these claims recites a combination of elements not taught or suggested by the prior art of record, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as well.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this affect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.16(h), Applicant has submitted herewith \$200 for 1 extra independent claim. If any additional fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

/David H. Brinkman/

David H. Brinkman, Reg. No. 40,532

2700 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 241-2324 - Voice
(513) 421-7269 - Facsimile